

July 14, 2004

Jacquelyn C. Jackson, Ed.D.
Acting Director
Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave. SW
Suite 2W 110
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Ms. Jackson:

This letter is written in response to the report based upon the March 22-25, 2004 U.S. Department of Education's Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs (SASA) team's review of the South Dakota Department of Education's administration of Title I, Parts A and B programs of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB).

The South Dakota Department of Education has responded to the findings and recommendations that the team cited as a result of the review. We have provided a detailed description of the actions our department has taken or will take regarding the findings noted in this report. We have also provided a response to the recommendations, acknowledging that these responses are not required, but are provided for the benefit of our constituents. Once USDOE has accepted the SD DOE's response to this report, both the report and response will be publicly disseminated.

Thank you for your consideration of our responses to the findings. We appreciate the technical assistance provided to SD DOE staff by the SASA team while on-site, through the review report, and communication via email and telephone conversations. We believe that this assistance will help South Dakota improve the delivery of Title I services in our state.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rick Melmer
Cabinet Secretary
South Dakota Department of Education
& Cultural Affairs

Enclosure
cc: Deb Barnett
Diane Lowery